

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**Neither For Nor Against to L.D. 89**

**LD TITLE: An Act To Establish a Deadline for Snowmobile  
Registration**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator THOMAS of Somerset**

**CO-SPONSORED BY: Representative BLACK of Wilton,  
Representative CRAY of Palmyra, Representative  
KESCHL of Belgrade, Senator PATRICK of Oxford,  
Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Senator  
WHITTEMORE of Somerset**

**DATE OF HEARING: March 7, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, Director of the Licensing Division at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against L.D. 89.

L.D. 89 establishes a \$20 late fee for resident and nonresident seasonal registrations paid for on or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year that the registration will be in effect.

The department feels that this proposal would complicate the snowmobile registration process for our customers, our agents, and department personnel. In addition, the proposed late fee will be viewed as a fee increase by anyone registering their snowmobile after January 1<sup>st</sup>. In an average year, 64% of residents and 78% of non-residents register their snowmobiles on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>. While some of these customers will change their registration practices and register before January 1<sup>st</sup>, many will not and will be subject to the \$20 late fee. The department does however; understand the need to increase funding to snowmobile clubs for trail maintenance. Of the proposed methods currently before the legislature for funding trail maintenance, this method is preferable due to control that is retained by the registrant to avoid the penalty however the department does not support any fee increases at this time.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session. If this Committee would like, staff from the Division of Parks and Public Lands at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry can also be available at the work session to answer questions related to current funding of snowmobile trails.